



Practitioners and researchers in many fields agree. The physical, social, and economic health and well-being of adults and society as a whole are strongly influenced by the early experiences of children, when the foundation for effective cognitive and social skills and abilities are developed. Children who have developmental delays or disabilities require and often receive early intervention. Children who have adverse experiences or prolonged toxic stress associated with poverty, child abuse and serious neglect, parental substance abuse, neighborhood violence, or maternal depression also need interventions to build the foundational skills necessary to reach their full potential. The most cost efficient time to intervene—to break the cycle of disadvantage for vulnerable children through providing access to comprehensive developmental, health, and educational resources—is in the very early ages.

This report provides a snapshot of the current status of American Indian babies relative to other babies in Minnesota.

Key findings

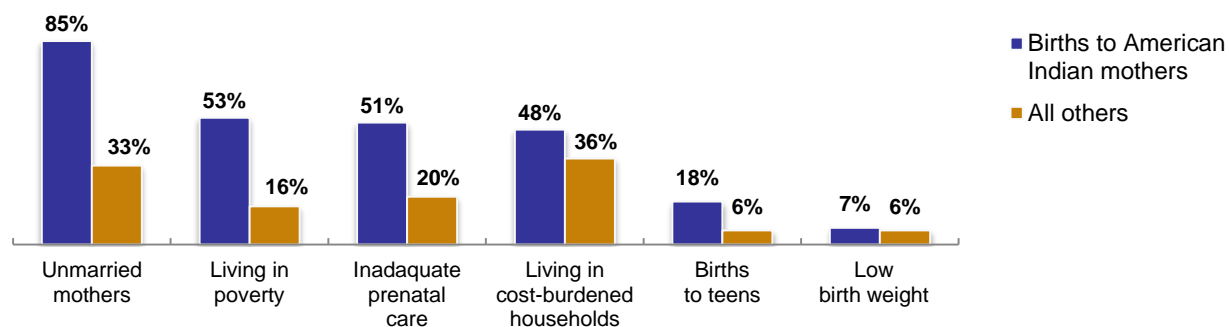
About 5,300 American Indian babies (about 2 percent of all children age 3 and younger) live in Minnesota. About 60 percent live on or near reservations.

Young American Indian children are among the most vulnerable in the state. American Indian babies have worse birth outcomes than most other babies, indicating they start life at an increased risk. Among the 1,400 babies born to American Indian mothers in 2010:

- 85% were born to unmarried mothers
- 51% did not receive adequate prenatal care
- 18% were born to teen mothers
- 7% were born at low birth weight
- In 2009, 7.5 out of 1,000 died before the age of 1

American Indian children through age 3 continue to experience challenges that put them at increased risk for school success:

- 48% live in cost-burdened households
- 53% live in poverty



American Indian babies at birth

Number

In 2010, there were 1,400 births to American Indian mothers in Minnesota, 2 percent of the total 68,400 babies born. American Indian births make up the smallest proportion of births in the state.

▪ White (non-Hispanic)	73%
▪ Hispanic or Latina ethnicity	8%
▪ Asian	7%
▪ African	5%
▪ African-American	5%
▪ <i>American Indian</i>	2%

Unmarried mothers

Of the American Indian babies born in Minnesota in 2012, 85 percent were born to unmarried mothers. In comparison, 25 percent of white babies were born to unmarried mothers.

▪ <i>American Indian</i>	85%
▪ African-American	84%
▪ Hispanic or Latina ethnicity	58%
▪ Asian	34%
▪ All	33%
▪ African	38%
▪ White (non-Hispanic)	25%

Births to teens

In 2010, 18 percent of American Indian babies in Minnesota were born to teen mothers, compared to just 6 percent of babies overall, and 5 percent of white babies.

▪ African-American	19%
▪ <i>American Indian</i>	18%
▪ Hispanic or Latina ethnicity	14%
▪ Asian	7%
▪ All	6%
▪ White (non-Hispanic)	5%
▪ African	2%

Prenatal care

American Indian women in Minnesota receive adequate prenatal at a rate lower than any other racial or ethnic group. In 2010, 49 percent of American Indian women who gave birth in Minnesota received adequate or better prenatal care. In comparison, 80 percent of all mothers in Minnesota received adequate or better prenatal care.

▪ White (non-Hispanic)	85%
▪ All	80%
▪ Hispanic or Latina ethnicity	70%
▪ African	67%
▪ African-American	67%
▪ Asian	66%
▪ <i>American Indian</i>	49%

Birth weights

Rates of low-birth-weight babies among American Indians are slightly lower than the overall population. In 2010, 7 percent of babies born to American Indian mothers in Minnesota were born with low birth weights (less than 5.5 pounds), one percentage point higher than the rest of the population.

▪ African-American	14%
▪ Asian	8%
▪ <i>American Indian</i>	7%
▪ African	7%
▪ White (non-Hispanic)	6%
▪ Hispanic or Latina ethnicity	6%
▪ All	6%

Mortality (infant death rates)

In 2009, American Indian babies had the second highest infant mortality rate, with 7.5 out of every 1000 babies dying before age 1. The overall infant mortality rate was 4.5 out of every 1,000 births.

▪ African-American	11.4
▪ <i>American Indian</i>	7.5
▪ Hispanic or Latina ethnicity	4.8
▪ African	4.7
▪ Asian	4.5
▪ All	4.5
▪ White (non-Hispanic)	3.8

Children age 3 and younger

Early intervention

In 2010, about 117 American Indian children age 2 and younger throughout the state were being served by the federal Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA) Part C, which requires states to provide special education services to infants and toddlers with disabilities. In 2010, black children made up 2 percent of the children being served, similar to the percentage of American Indian children in the state's population.

Well-child visits

Regular medical checkups support the health and well-being of young children. Low-income babies receive well-child visits through The Child and Teen Checkups Program (C&TC), which is part of Minnesota's Medicaid program. In 2009, while low-income American Indian babies were receiving check-ups at slightly higher rates than those of other races (91%), American Indian toddlers were receiving check-ups at the lowest rate (66%).

	< 1 Year	Age 2-3
▪ American Indian	91%	66%
▪ Black	90%	79%
▪ Asian	85%	72%
▪ White	85%	73%
▪ Hispanic	92%	81%
▪ Other	88%	77%
▪ All	87%	76%



Family strengths and stressors

Poverty

The federal poverty threshold (100% of poverty) for a family of four in 2009 was \$22,000 a year. The American Community Survey estimates that over half (53%) of American Indian children age 3 and younger were living at or below this threshold in 2009-10. In comparison, only 10 percent of white babies and 16 percent of all babies are living in poverty.

▪ American Indian	53%
▪ African-American	53%
▪ African	40%
▪ Hispanic or Latina ethnicity	39%
▪ Asian	16%
▪ All	16%
▪ White (non-Hispanic)	10%

Housing

Half of American Indian children age 3 and under in Minnesota lived in households that were cost-burdened (households that spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs) in 2009-10. In comparison, only one of three white and Asian babies lived in cost-burdened households.

▪ African-American	73%
▪ African	55%
▪ Hispanic or Latina ethnicity	49%
▪ American Indian	48%
▪ All	36%
▪ White (non-Hispanic)	32%
▪ Asian	32%

Child protection

In 2008, about 8,000 children birth through age 3 (1%) were involved in reports for child maltreatment, and 2,500 were placed in out-of-home care. For all ages, American Indian children were more than six times more likely to a subject of maltreatment report than were white children, eight times more likely to be state wards, and 12 times more likely than white children to be placed in out-of-home care.

Sources:

Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics.*

Minnesota Department of Human Services. Minnesota's child welfare reports, 2008. Children and Family Services. <https://edocs.dhs.state.mn.us/lfsrserver/Legacy/DHS-5408A-ENG>

U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey.*

* *Indicates Wilder Research obtained and analyzed the data.*

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